



**Commission on
Disability Issues**

**Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI)
Gateway Building, Room 303
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046**

Minutes 10-27-14

Present: Matthew Plantz
Byung Ahn
Chelsea Stanton
Bridget MccCarthy
John Blake
Steve Rivers
Jim Ennis
Arthur Gold
Gloria Smith
Lynn Albizo
Andrea Kolp

Excused: Carol Beatty
Jean Daniello
Doug Lea

Guest (s): Will Stocker

Unexcused: Alex Walker

Staff: Michelle Henry (Executive Secretary)
Erica Lewis (Staff Liaison)
Terry Zeigler (Recording Secretary)

Welcome and Introductions

- I. Approval of minutes for August 25, 2014
 - Minutes for August approved as written.

II. Brief Reports

A. CDI Staff (Michelle)

- Howard County Emergency Management is currently conducting various activities due to the Ebola situation. One concern is the shortage of Hazmat Suits should outbreak occur. However, Howard County Health Department feels there is not enough cause to worry about an Ebola emergency at this time.

B. Chairperson (Matthew)

- Town Hall Meeting November 17, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with Bernard Simons, Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration. To be held at the Oakland Mills Meeting House in Columbia. Open to the public.

C. Vice Chairperson (Lynn)

- The Maryland Disabilities Forum hosted a gubernatorial candidate forum on October 9th in Baltimore, to discuss disability-related issues. No CDI members attended the forum.

D. Alliance of CDI's (Michelle)

- Please refer to the minutes that were sent out recently.
- Areas of interest – Additional accessible cabs are being added in Prince Georges and Baltimore City.
- The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) is offering various trainings at hospitals to improve communications between medical field and Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- The Alliance of Disability Commissions is reviewing their operating procedures. This includes determining how sign language and other accommodations are provided, and who pays for them. Also includes a determination of whether or not the Alliance is subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

E. Access Committee (Michelle)

- Lynn reported on the Wilde Lake Village Center – currently under construction. CDI members reported that, due to construction, some stores and businesses are not accessible for people with disabilities and seniors. The timeline and interim plan have exceeded the projected completion date. Michelle directed commission to prepare a letter on behalf of The Commission on Disability Issues addressing these problems.
- Access Committee will use the April meeting date to do a walking tour of downtown Columbia, including Symphony Woods and Merriweather, to review accessibility. CDI members and community are welcome to participate.

F. Provider Committee (Arthur/Erica)

- Met on September 10, 2014, with a presentation on Howard County's new community based anti-bullying initiative "Stand Up, Ho Co," led by the Local Children's Board.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, November 5th, 9:30 to 11:30 am, in room 303 of the Gateway Building. The meeting will feature two presentations: DDA LISS program updates and the Accessible Resources for Independence Center for Independent Living serving Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

G. CDI Policy & Procedure Review Committee

- Erica and the committee (John Blake, Arthur Gold, Matt Plantz, and Gloria Smith) will review revised draft on Monday, November 17th, 4:00 to 5:30 pm, in room 303 of the Gateway Building.

III. Old Business

A. October 2nd CDI Awards Program

- Approximately 110 people attended. Many compliments on the panel presentation. The Bain Center sound system needs improvements. Poor sound quality, especially for those attendees sitting in the rear portion of the Great Rooms. Michelle thanked Commissioners who recommended panel speakers as well as those who offered to serve as panel members. Gloria thanked Terry Zeigler for her support in making the awards program a success.

IV. New Business

A. 2015 Meeting Schedule

- Erica will propose 2015 meeting dates at the December 1st CDI meeting. Based on two motions and majority vote of approval, Commission meetings will remain scheduled 6 times per year, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, on the 4th Monday. CDI members verbalized a desire to re-establish the legislative committee; Lynn offered to chair this committee.

B. CDI Annual Report

- Handout – Erica gave out a draft copy of Commission on Disability Issues Annual Report 2014. Any comments/suggestions on this handout please e-mail Erica. Revised drafts will be sent out by e-mail and voting will take place at the December 1st CDI meeting.

C. Use of CDI Training Funds – tabled until next meeting due to time constraints.

D. Attendance

- Michelle reviewed CDI attendance policy. Three consecutive unexcused absences may result in termination, unless excused through a resolution approved by the Commission. If unable to attend a regularly-scheduled CDI meeting, contact Michelle or Erica prior to the meeting.

E. CDI Officer Elections

- Matthew's term on the Commission ends in early January 2015, and also his term as Chair will end in December 2014.
- Per current policy, the CDI Vice Chair (Lynn Albizo) may assume the position of CDI Chair, if desired. Lynn has not yet announced her decision. If Lynn decides not to take the position of Chair, both Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be open.
- Election(s) will take place at the December 1st meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or a fellow CDI member, please email Michelle prior to December 1st.

V. Announcements:

- A Futures Planning workshop will be held Friday, November 7th, 9:30 am to 1:15 pm, North Laurel Community Center at 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road. Sponsored by the Department of Citizen Services, Howard County Autism Society, The Arc of Howard County, and the Public School System. Free and open to the public. Contact Erica to RSVP or for further information.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next CDI meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2014,
6:30 to 8:30 pm, in Room 303 of the Gateway Building.

To request this document in an alternate format, or to request accommodations for participation in a Commission on Disability Issues meeting, please contact Erica Lewis at 410-313-6402 (Voice/Relay) or email eailewis@howardcountymd.gov at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.